

For the first time since he became president, Calvin Coolidge set foot on foreign soil when he walked down the gang plank at Havana, Cuba, to make the opening address at the Pan-American conference. As representative of the greatest republic of the western hemisphere, President Coolidge hailed with such acclaim as only a Latin can give. Speaking at the opening of the conference the president spoke in a tone of conciliation and urged understanding and co-operation among the nations of North and South America. Diplomats of both the Americas saw in the address anything but a militant policy on the part of the United States toward the smaller republics on this side of the Atlantic. The president did not mention Nicaragua.

The United States senate seems determined to make a new issue of the old argument over the tariff. By vote of 63 to 33 the senate went on record in favor of a downward revision of "excessive" tariff rates. The resolution did not mention which rates are deemed to be excessive. Observers in Washington noted that the farm bloc all voted in favor of the resolution and drew from this fact the conclusion that the attack against high tariffs is part of the liberal program to frighten the steel industry into supporting subsequent farm relief legislation.

Adolph Hotelling, 47 years old, has been for years an active member of an Owosso, Michigan church. He read all of the lurid details of the Hickman kidnaping and murder case. Then he kidnaped 5-year-old Dorothy Schneider and killed her. Arrested, he confessed the crime. In jail at Flint, Mich. he was threatened by a mob of 10,000 persons who hurried rocks at the jail and were dispersed only when national guardsmen charged. The deacon kidnaper was taken from the Flint jail to the Ionia State Reformatory.

The latest addition to the ranks of influential Hoover for President adherents is Assistant Secretary Robinson of the navy who has issued a public statement supporting the secretary of commerce for the Republican nomination. Announcement was also made this week that Mr. Hoover has been a member in good standing of Republican campaign organizations since 1909.

Since General Pershing vainly endeavored to settle the Tanageria dispute in Chile the United States has been extremely unpopular along the west coast of South America. This unpopularity was recently voiced in acid terms by La Naclon, the government owned newspaper at Santiago. Because this newspaper is owned by the government Ambassador William M. Collier, acting under instructions of the state department lodged an official protest to the Chilean government.

The house irrigation committee after having been warned by members of the Arizona delegation that it had its hearings on Boulder Dam Arizona will institute injunction proceedings if congress passes the Colorado river legislation in its present form. Representative Douglas of Arizona said that his state would keep the controversy in the courts for years.

While President Coolidge was sailing from Florida to Cuba to promote peace and understanding among the republics of North and South America, United States marine aviators dropped hand grenades, bombs, and shot machine gun bullets into the ranks of Gen. Sandino and Nicaraguan rebels, killing 43. The planes were in action under a fusillade of rifle fire and several were hit. All the American planes returned safely.

The mobility of airplanes in time of war was demonstrated when Major Louis Bourne, United States Marine Corps completed a "line of duty" flight from Miami, Florida, to Managua, Nicaragua. The trip of 1200 miles was completed in a little more than 12 hours with three marines aboard. The plane was a large Fokker monoplane, three motored and equipped with radio. No stops were made.

Another warning against too great a reduction in federal taxes by congress has been issued by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, who declares that if the taxes are reduced below two hundred and twenty-five million dollars higher rates may have to be voted subsequently in order to meet a government deficiency with a resultant harmful effect on business and industry. "It must be remembered," he said, "that our present revenues (Continued on last page)

Bill Barber SAYS
Love is a Great Game - if you lose you get married

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FOURTEENTH YEAR—No. 3

LIST CHAMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

New Regime In Lomita C. of C. As Hunter Is Beaten

Report Sent Out To Citizens Reveals Accomplishments

Yearly Gathering Hears Summary of Local Body's Varied Activity
NAMES NEW COMMITTEES
Organization Gets Set to Repeat Performance in 1928

The annual report of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce made public Monday night at the public meeting of the organization at the Women's Clubhouse sets forth a list of varied achievements for which the organization has been responsible during 1927. The report listing the activities of the Chamber will go forward to every member of the community. Opening the meeting, George A. Proctor said in part: "Communities are measured largely by their Chambers of Commerce. Business and industry determine whether or not they shall invest in a certain city by the strength and energy of its Chamber of Commerce. A recent survey of American cities failed to disclose a single active, worthwhile community which did not possess a viable working Chamber of Commerce."

"From the Chamber of Commerce which is the power house of the community, radiates the activities which make the community a place in which people love to live and to work. It is the business office of the community, where volunteer workers co-operate in solving community problems. "The amount of work done and good accomplished by the Chamber of Commerce during 1927 is astounding, particularly so when one thinks of the valuable time taken from their own business by the volunteer workers. Torrance is particularly fortunate and displayed wisdom when it elected to provide its promotion fund from taxation, the only absolutely equitable way of securing funds for this type of work. However, this is only the material means which are employed in the program and will be found sorely wanting if the proper support of man power is not coupled as the main agency."

"Herein is presented a brief summary of the accomplishments and activities of your organization for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1927. The report is condensed, but gives an idea of the work of your directors and committee chairmen, and an idea of the manner in which the funds of the organization have been expended. Every dollar of economy has been followed. We believe that you will agree that your organization has accomplished a great deal considering the amount of funds available for the work. Study this report. It is the best possible sales argument to show the advantages of making itself an ideal place in which to live and do business. "It is impossible to name all the persons and give all the credit to those who have worked diligently when called upon. Every task has been faced sincerely, every duty performed honestly, and the results speak for themselves. "With the close of the fiscal year of 1927 of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, comes not only a worthy pride in the achievements of the past year on the part of your Board of Directors, but also a greater feeling of responsibility than ever before to meet the demands in time and effort for the work of the ensuing year."

Dennis Tells Story
Mayor John Dennis related a story of the tremendous growth which Torrance enjoyed during its first two months as a city official. The mayor recited the details of a conversation he had while visiting in Oregon. He said: "I was talking to some old friends and one of them asked me how large Torrance was and I told him about 6000. A few minutes later another man asked me about the population of Torrance and I said it was between eight and ten thousand. A third man who was a bit deaf later asked me how large Torrance was and I said about twelve thousand. Just then I noticed a sign on a grip of a (Continued on last page)

Torrance Grows on Sound Basis, Asserts Expert

Thurston H. Ross Cites Facts in Actual Shopping Survey Here

That Torrance is avoiding the injurious effects of boom growth but is progressing solidly and soundly, and that business here is better than in almost any other community in Southern California, was the major conclusion to be drawn from addresses made at the annual meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce at the Women's Clubhouse Monday night. Thurston H. Ross, economist and engineer, who has conducted commercial surveys here annually for the past three years, declared that actual count of buyers in Torrance during the Christmas shopping period increased 34% in 1927 over 1926. He also declared that the increase in purchases by residents of Torrance showed a similar increase.

The statistics gathered by Mr. Ross were taken by checking the registration cards in automobiles and actual visits to some of 350 homes in Torrance. Mr. Ross declared that the Christmas volume of business in many other communities was far from satisfactory while the increase in the numbers of purchasers in Torrance stores among local and outside residents indicate a healthy forward movement of this city as the retail buying hub of this district.

"Torrance merchants do not enjoy a flashy trade," declared Mr. Ross, but are receiving a good, healthy and steady custom. "This is the result of sound, economic policy. The merchant who prices his goods too high during part of the year and then sells it below cost during another period is not building soundly. While failures are being recorded in many Southern California cities most Torrance merchants are enjoying a substantial patronage. This is not the result of chance, but of good merchandising. "But are receiving a good reputation of finance companies reveal that there are fewer foreclosures in Torrance than in any other community in Southern California. He pointed out that this city has not been forced to suffer the repercussions which always follow the inflation of real estate value. He congratulated Torrance on the fact that it is not a boom town but one that is growing steadily and solidly.

"The industrial future of Torrance is absolutely assured," he said, "there is no question about that. But you business men of Torrance should realize that in addition to being a great factory center, Torrance is steadily becoming more and more an important retailing center." Following Mr. Ross, J. W. Macdowell declared that inflated values in many cities in Southern California have depreciated the value of commercial loans. He spoke at length of the inflated real estate values in Beverly Hills and other Southern California cities and said that the prices of business property are so high that retailers cannot afford to do business on the exorbitantly valued location. He pointed out that while many cities in Southern California are merely districts built around a boulevard, Torrance is developing an individuality of its own and is becoming an important retail center which will become even more important as the years go by.

Invite Public to Musical Program

A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend a musical evening at the Keystone Baptist church, Friday evening, January 27. The program will be presented by the choir of the Baptist church of Torrance. A real plan service. Consolidated Lumber Co.—Adv.

Observations

Battle of the Titans—Oil and Civilization—Prohibition Agents and the Questionnaire—Auto Competition Narrows

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

FOR the first time in the history of the long feud between American and foreign giants of the oil industry, the Standard Oil Co. of New York has brought the attention of the public to the struggle in an authorized statement.

- The latest outbreak in this contest between the industrial Goliaths burst forth last summer when Standard Oil subsidiary companies announced that they would purchase oil from Soviet Russia. The facts in the present controversy are as follows: 1—Prior to 1926 both the Royal Dutch Shell and Standard bought Russian crude oil for shipment to India and the Orient. 2—The British Government declared a trade war on the Bolsheviks and ran the Russians out of England. 3—The Royal Dutch Shell decided to boycott the Russian market, and want the Standard to do the same. The Standard of New York joined the boycott, but Standard of New Jersey and another Standard subsidiary, the Vacuum Oil Co., entered into contract for the purchase of Russian oil. 4—Royal Dutch Shell started price cutting against Standard Companies in India and opened up retail gasoline stations in Standard's own territory in New York state and the East.

THE statement issued by Standard of New York declares that the Royal Dutch Shell combine was seeking to secure a monopoly on Russian oil for itself when Great Britain broke with the Soviet and that thereupon the Royal Dutch attempted to keep Standard companies out of the Russian field, from which British politics barred the Royal Dutch. The price cutting between the two companies has reached tremendous proportions in India and bids fair to sweep to other parts of the globe.

AMERICANS should be intensely interested in the struggle for oil. It is a notorious fact that while American companies are prevented by government regulations from drilling for oil in British territory, foreign owned companies are allowed to take American oil out of the ground and sell it to Americans, meanwhile canning their own supply against the needs of the future. In view of the fact that modern civilization is dependent upon petroleum it is deplorable that our government does not take action. As far as the conflict between the Royal Dutch Shell and the Standard is concerned the public may regard it as a private fight, but when it touches upon our natural resource of petroleum, we should be mightily interested. The Royal Dutch Shell combine numbers among its most substantial stockholders the royal family in Holland, and the British government. Its activities in foreign countries are linked up closely with the British and Holland foreign offices. The struggle between the Royal Dutch Shell and the Standard is therefore something more than a mere competition between two large industries, but assumes the proportions of a controversy between nations into which the patriotism of the public must sooner or later play a definite part.

WE are in a quandary over what to deduce from the fact that 75% of the federal prohibition agents were unable to pass civil service examinations. Either the examination was too difficult, or the agents were too dumb. Either the tests were above the intelligence of the normal American citizen, or those who took it were below the average in gray matter. Quite naturally enough there were as many interpretations of the failure as there are divergent views on the question of prohibition. In any event the law enforcement branch of the federal government is hard put to know what to do. It is not pleasant for the chiefs of the prohibition bureau to face the public with the admission that three in every four prohibition agents could not pass an examination to establish their ability to hold down a job as a liquor sleuth. We are intrigued by the desire to write an examination suitable to men who wish to serve the government as prohibition agents, nor do we think that the test should be confined to academic knowledge of the American Bill of Rights. If he was the type who believed that it was right to violate one constitutional amendment in order to enforce another, we would check him off the list. If he were willing to search a private home without a search warrant and thus violate an American guarantee of liberty, he would not get on the payroll.

WE wonder just how much education it requires to be a successful prohibition agent. From our observation of some of them in the East we would conclude that the chief requisite of a man for such a position would be an ability to protect the big rum runner who could afford to pass out big hush money and to hunt down the little fellow who retained his contraband. Then too, it seems that the agent who is the most successful—at least from our personal observation—is the one who does not forego the doubtful pleasure of partaking of the liquor which it is his duty to suppress.

POSSIBLY these conclusions are altogether incorrect. Very likely the type of agent which we have observed is the very type which failed to get over the hurdles when confronted by a real examination drafted by the civil service. Seriously we believe that the test for prohibition agents should be extremely severe. A loutish, ignorant officer detailed to enforce any law is very much out of place and does more harm than he does good. One of the chief marks of ignorance is the inability to handle responsibility and the tendency to usually high typed men. Else the government itself falls in the estimation of those who contact the nation only through its lesser agents. Certainly there must be enough intelligent men to fill the ranks of the prohibition bureau without the necessity of putting back on the payroll the 1500 who could not pass the first test ever designed for them.

NEVER before in the history of the automobile industry has there been such a tremendous struggle for business as that which is current among manufacturers of motor cars. With the advent of the new Ford almost every large manufacturer in the country announced new models and reduction in prices. It is obvious that the value which a buyer receives when purchasing an automobile today is the greatest since automobiles became popular. In the automobile industry as elsewhere the public wins whenever stiff competition is in order. We may look forward to the day when only a few very large companies will be manufacturing and selling motor cars. For in such a race as that which the manufacturers are now running only the fittest will survive.

BABCOCK'S SENTENCE 8 MOS.

Former Torrance Bank Cashier Sent to San Bernardino Jail

FEDERAL COURT ACTS

Local Man Who Pleaded Guilty Has Been Out Under Bond

L. V. Babcock, former cashier of the First National Bank of Torrance Monday was sentenced in the San Bernardino County Jail. Babcock, who has been out under bond since his arrest in \$10,000 default, pleaded guilty. Since Torrance was shocked at the news of his admitted shortage Babcock has been engaged in the insurance business. He stoutly maintains that he did not use any of the money himself.

Evening School Plans Program

on January 27

Good Show, Fine Exhibits Make Up Program Announced Today

An evening school program of entertainment will be staged on Friday night, Jan. 27. There will be a basketball game between Torrance and some outside team. At 7:30 in the auditorium the following program will be put on: numbers by the Choral club; song in Spanish by the Spanish class; one act play by the drama class; short address by Mrs. Tom Willey of the naturalization class; speech on "What America Has Done for Me," by a member of the Americanization class who has lived in the United States for only a year; wrestling and tumbling exhibition by gym class.

Vierling Kersey, assistant superintendent of the Los Angeles school system will speak on "Adult Education." In the music room an exhibition of work done by the following classes will be on exhibition: dress-making, millinery, machine shop, wood shop, arts and crafts, commercial work. The millinery class will conduct a candy sale to raise funds for the purchase of a hat-blocking machine. This week and next the citizenship class will meet on Thursday night instead of on Friday.

Charles E. Jones Taken by Death

Charles Edward Jones, 54, died Tuesday, Jan. 17, at his home on Vermont avenue after two weeks' illness. A post mortem disclosed that death was due to heart trouble.

Mr. Jones, who was born in Parkersburg, Ohio, had been a resident of Torrance for about three years, coming here from Casimilla, California. He was employed on the Klein-Meyer of the Pan-American Oil company. Mr. Jones was a member of the Moose Lodge of Santa Maria. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Alice Jones. Rev. M. E. Cameron will conduct funeral services at Nell and Towne chapel, Compton, Friday, Jan. 20, at 2:30 p. m.

A GREAT MAN IN TORRANCE

Rev. C. H. M. Sutherland, pastor of the Methodist Lincoln Church of Pasadena, will preach at the Methodist Episcopal church of our city Sunday morning, Rev. Sutherland is well known in California, and his many friends will be glad to see and hear him. Rev. R. A. Young will be in his pulpit Sunday night.

Hundred Heads of Clubs Will Visit Torrance

Art Exhibit and Reciprocity Day Set for Feb. 1st

California of the days of the Missions, Mexico and her Indian types, old Spain, the picturesque figures of the pioneers, will fill the Torrance Women's Clubhouse with color when a group of paintings done by Hernandez Villa go on display Wednesday, Feb. 1. Reciprocity Day, Feb. 1, at the local clubhouse will present a most interesting program to the hundred or more presidents of the district who will be honored guests. Luncheon will be served, followed by a talk on art subjects by the noted Spanish-American artist whose paintings are to be shown.

Hernandez Villa, born in Los Angeles, a member of one of the old families of the city, has achieved a distinction in his portrayal of the Spanish types and a keenness in his characterization of the well known figures of California's early day history, which has marked him out for recognition so that his selection as consulting artist of the Permanent Art Board for the Reorganization of the Santa Barbara Mission followed the natural lines of election, of a man who had the intimate knowledge as well as the technical skill to be a faithful guide to the restoration of this historic place.

A thorough discussion of art will include an explanation in detail of the paintings he will bring to the clubhouse, so that the exhibit will be of more than the usual interest.

Council Acts In Disputed Move on Sub-station

Suit Threatened on Overhead High-tension Wires Not Yet Resolved

A united Torrance City Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to instruct City Attorney Briney to draft an ordinance changing lots 25 and 26 in Block 70 on Madrid avenue from the residence to the industrial zone so that the Southern California Edison Company may erect a bungalow sub-station on the property.

This action was taken after a threat by W. T. Klusman that property owners might institute suit to prevent the installation of overhead high tension wires to the station. Mayor Dennis explained that the reasoning merely provided for the change of one for the sub-station and that the matter of overhead wires would come up later.

Dr. G. A. R. Steiner, who declared that he owned more property near the proposed sub-station than any other individual, urged the Council to change the zone. "It would be a crime to halt progress by denying the request," he said. "The building the company intends to erect will be without question the most attractive that ever will be built on the street. Mayor Dennis will not interfere with radio reception except in case of a leak and whenever a leak occurs the company will certainly repair it promptly, for a leak costs the company too much money to be allowed to remain."

Mr. Klusman declared that property owners were not so much concerned with the sub-station itself but would object to overhead high tension wires. He intimated that recourse would be sought in the courts. Councilman Inman reported the results of an investigation made by himself and Councilman Raymond into radio reception near the Edison sub-station on Western avenue. He said they listened in on a radio 25 feet from the station and that there was positively no interference.

"If we deny this request," he concluded, "we would be stamping out progress."

Mrs. Dr. James T. Seely and Mrs. C. A. Barnes, sisters of Mrs. Edward Lynch are leaving for Seattle, Wash., tonight. Mrs. E. V. Blackwell and son, L. S. Blackwell will remain with Mrs. Lynch till Feb. 15, when they will all go north to Tacoma, Wash.

TONKIN IS ELECTED HEAD

Defeat of Hunter and Adherents Marks New Era Here

OTHER OFFICERS NAMED

Chamber Moves Out From Under Asserted 'Ring' Control

Lomita this week saw its Chamber of Commerce under the conduct of a new regime and out from under the control of the Hunter group which has been at the helm in the promotional and political affairs of the community for a number of years.

With the defeat of L. J. Hunter at the election of directors and the swamping of several of his adherents a new group took charge of the affairs of the organization. At a meeting held last Friday night the following officers were elected by the directors: T. J. Tonkin, president; Ed Sidebotham, first vice-president; George Towne, second vice-president; B. A. Beckham, treasurer. President Tonkin will announce committees shortly.

Kiwanians Kids in School Again

The Kiwanis Club of Torrance held its weekly luncheon at the Torrance Elementary School last Friday noon. The Kiwanians sat in school seats while J. R. Jensen sat at the leader's desk and made them behave. Mrs. Kent and Miss Crimmins marched the "pupils" to the auditorium where they sat in a circle and were served a school luncheon by the Methodist Ladies Aid Society. The luncheon was topped off by ice cream cones and all-day nappers. Programs for the meeting were on school tablets. The club was entertained by a girls' chorus from the third and fourth grades. Other features of the program were as follows: play by the kindergarten; dance by Jeanette and Virginia Mikolton; songs by the boys' glee club; solo by Charles Johnston; dance by Virginia Bell; song in Japanese by Japanese girls in native costumes; songs by the girls' glee club.

CONDEMN PART OF STREET

The Council Tuesday night finally adopted an ordinance condemning a small portion of Ferrocarrol avenue on which the Union Tool Company has a portion of a building projecting into the street. The highway is not in use. The company owns all the building there on "dry" location condemned is small. The company had previously been granted the right to build into the street. The company paid all the costs of the condemnation proceedings. There were no protests.

WHAT'S ON IN TORRANCE

- Tonight—Installation. Lomita Masons, I. O. O. F. Temple, K. C. card party at K. C. hall, Friday, Jan. 20—Women's Club card party. Torrance Relief Association.
- Saturday, Jan. 21—Regular meeting. Job's Daughters. Sunday, Jan. 22—Services in all churches.
- Monday, Jan. 23—Directors C. of C. meet at 7:30, public invited. P. N. G. luncheon, I. O. O. F. Temple.
- Tuesday, Jan. 24—Regular meeting. P. T. A. Odd Fellows. W. B. A. K. of C. American Legion.
- Wednesday, Jan. 25—Regular meeting. Masons, Moose, Rebekahs.
- Thursday, Jan. 26—Regular meeting. O. E. S.
- Friday, Jan. 27—Women's Club dance. Entertainment by evening school classes.